Terrors of Dracula

MAY 1981
$2.50

RIP THE FLESH AND DRINK THE BLOOD THEN ENTER THE

HOUSE of VAMPIRES

AND LIVE FOREVER!

THE SHOCK OF NAKED HORROR IN

BLACKLIGHT TERROR

Plus

FROM THE GRAVE BELOW

DEVIL'S ZOMBIE

THE SKIN CRAWLERS

GRUESOME IS THE THING WITH A

HEAD FULL OF SNAKES

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HOUSE OF THE VAMPIRE

IT WAS NEAR DUSK WHEN FOUR YOUNG AMERICAN OFFICERS ON DUTY IN GERMANY WERE USING SOME OF THEIR LEAVE TO DO A LITTLE SIGHTSEEING... AND WHEN THEY SAW THE RUINS IT FILLED EVEN THE YOUNG AMERICANS WITH EERIE MORBIDNESS...

THE JEEP WENT OVER THE SIDE OF THE MOUNTAIN... WHEN ANDREW THOMAS, THE DRIVER CAME TO, HE WAS PINNED UNDER THE JEEP! PAINFULLY, HIS EYES FELL ON A HORRIBLE SCENE...
THAT'S THE CREATURE THAT MADE ME TURN OFF THE ROAD! SHE-SHE--OH-NO--
HEARING HIM MOVE, THE CREATURE TURNED...
HA!
I-I'VE READ STORIES ABOUT SUCH THINGS-- BUT I NEVER BELIEVED THEY EXISTED! IT--IT'S A VAMPIRE! SHE WAS DRINKING HARLEY'S BLOOD!
EEEYAAAH!
ANDY! WHAT IS IT?
WHAM!
IT'S A VAMPIRE! QUICK--G-GET A WEAPON! HELP ME FIGHT IT!
EEK... MY EYES!
I CAN'T GET NEAR ENOUGH TO STRIKE!
THEN SUDDENLY, THE BAT-LIKE CREATURE ROSE ALOFT..
IT--IT'S GONE!
LET'S SEE WHAT WE CAN DO FOR HARLEY AND FIND OUT IF DICK IS ALIVE!

KNEELING BESIDE THE BODY OF RICHARD WATERS, ANDY AND BEN REALIZED THE TRUTH!
HE--HE'S DEAD!
LOOK, BEN... THOSE MARKS ON HIS THROAT!
THAT CREATURE DRAINED DICK'S BLOOD FIRST! SHE HAD HER TEETH SUNK INTO HARLEY'S NECK WHEN I CRAWLED OUT FROM UNDER THE JEEP!
HARVEY'S ALIVE! HE'S GROANING!
HOW DO YOU FEEL, FELLA?
WH-WHAT HAPPENED? I-I REMEMBER SOMETHING IN THE ROAD ...THEN WE WENT OFF! WAIT, I REMEMBER SOMETHING ELSE...
AFTER THE CRASH-- I CAME TO... AND THEN, I GUESS I WAS OUT OF MY HEAD! I THOUGHT SOMETHING WAS REACHING FOR ME!
I--I FEEL WEAK-- DRAINED OF STRENGTH!
WE'VE HAD A HORRIBLE EXPERIENCE, HARLEY! DICK IS DEAD, AND IN A FEW MINUTES MORE YOU MIGHT HAVE BEEN! THE THING YOU SAW--
I-I DON'T SEEM TO CARE ABOUT ANYTHING! I FEEL FUNNY! LOOK-- YOUR SLEEVE! BLOOD! THAT'S WHAT I NEED... BLOOD!
WHAT'S HAPPENED TO HIM?
IN HORROR, ANDY AND BEN WATCHED HARLEY CHANGE FROM THE MAN THEY KNEW INTO SOMETHING HORRIFYING!
BLOOD! BLOOD!

BLOOD... IT WILL BRING BACK MY STRENGTH--
HARLEY, GET HOLD OF YOURSELF! YOU'VE GONE HAYWIRE FROM THE ACCIDENT!
IT'S MORE THAN THAT!
I HATE TO DO THIS, HARLEY, BUT IT'S THE ONLY WAY!
PUW!

I REMEMBER READING ABOUT THIS! IF ANYONE WHO HAD HIS BLOOD SUCKED BY A VAMPIRE--AND--MANAGES TO LIVE--HE BECOMES A VAMPIRE HIMSELF!
WOW! HARLEY, OUR BUDDY! NOW A VAMPIRE!

AS THEY TALKED, A MULE CART AND DRIVER APPEARED...
FROM UP THERE ON THE MOUNTAIN, THE BARONESS KLORISE OBSERVED YOUR ACCIDENT! SHE SENT ME TO OFFER YOU ALL THE HOSPITALITY OF HER CASTLE FOR THE NIGHT!

DO YOU MEAN THAT SOMEONE REALLY LIVES UP THERE IN THAT PLACE!
YA, MEIN HERR! NOW IT IS NOT SO GOOD TO BE ALONE IN THE MOUNTAINS WHEN NIGHT FALLS! IF YOU WILL GET IN MY POOR CART, WE CAN BE ON OUR WAY!

WE'D BETTER TAKE A CHANCE ON THE CASTLE, ANDY! WE CAN'T TELL HOW BADLY THE JEEP IS DAMAGED UNTIL MORNING, AND BESIDES, WE'VE GOT TO DECIDE WHAT TO DO WITH HARLEY--

WE WERE TALKING ABOUT THIS PLACE LOOKING LIKE IT WAS HAUNTED, JUST BEFORE WE SAW THAT **THING** IN OUR PATH, BEN! WONDER IF THE OLD MAN KNOWS ANYTHING ABOUT THE VAMPIRE?

REACHING THE CASTLE, THE GROUP WAS SURPRISED AT THE BEAUTY OF THE BARONESS...
PLEASE DON'T WORRY ABOUT ANYTHING! I SAW THE ACCIDENT AND I HOPE YOU WON'T BE INCONVENIENCED!...NOW YOU'RE **MY** GUESTS!

MY FAITHFUL HEINRICH AND KASTCHEM WILL TAKE CARE OF YOUR INJURED FRIENDS...

NOW I HOPE THAT **BOTH** OF YOU WILL BE COMFORTABLE HERE

KASTCHEM WILL SHOW YOU TO YOUR ROOMS!
YOU ARE VERY KIND, BARONESS!

AND WHY DOES A BEAUTIFUL CREATURE LIKE THAT WANT TO STAY IN THIS CREEPY PLACE? I THOUGHT YOU WERE GOING TO ASK HER ABOUT THE **VAMPIRE**?
SHE **IS** BEAUTIFUL-- BUT THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT HER...

ANDY MIGHT HAVE UNDERSTOOD MANY THINGS IF HE HAD SEEN THE BARONESS A FEW MINUTES AFTER THEY HAD BEEN IN THEIR ROOMS...
CHAIN HIM IN THE DUNGEON! I SHALL FINISH HIM LATER WHEN THE OTHERS HAVE BEEN DISPOSED OF! THEN I SHALL GIVE YOU THE **DEAD** ONE TO DEVOUR!

I'D LIKE TO TALK SOME MORE TO THE BARONESS! ANDY SHOULD HAVE **TOLD** HER ABOUT THE VAMPIRE! **IT**! BUT IF ANDY ISN'T INTERESTED, **I AM!**

OH-- I WAS HOPEFUL YOU WERE STILL UP! I WANTED TO TALK TO YOU!
YES-- I WAS EXPECTING YOU!

YOU ARE SO YOUNG AND HANDSOME--SO STRONG--
YOUR LIPS-- I CAN'T RESIST THEM!

NO-- DO NOT RESIST-- IT WILL NOT DO YOU ANY GOOD--
YIII-EEE! THE VAMPIRE!

I HEARD A SCREAM! IT SOUNDED LIKE BEN!

IT IS BEN! AND-- AND HE'S DEAD! THE VAMPIRE STRUCK AGAIN! HERE IN THIS CASTLE!

I THOUGHT THAT THERE WAS SOMETHING STRANGE ABOUT THE BARONESS AND HER CREEPY SERVANTS! I'M GOING TO FIND HER AND THEM AND HAVE A SHOWDOWN!

THERE-- YOU MAY HAVE THE FLESH! I'VE HAD THE BLOOD!
WHA--? THE VAMPIRE AND HER GHOUL SERVANTS... STAND BACK--NOBODY WILL RIP FLESH FROM HIS BODY!

YOU CAN KILL MY SERVANTS-- BUT YOU CANNOT KILL ME!
BANG
BANG

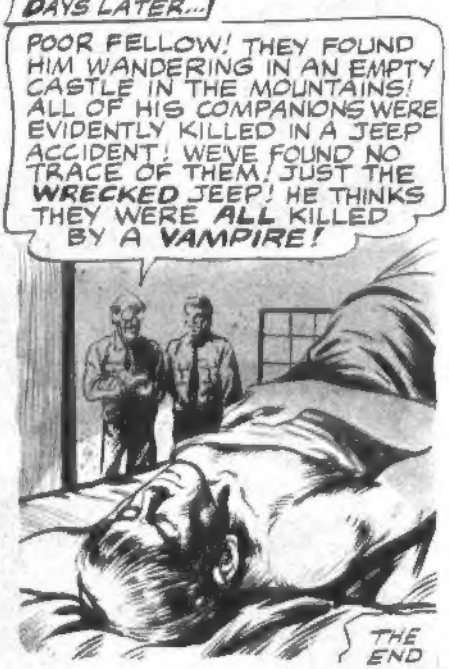
I HAVE LIVED IN MY TOMB BENEATH THE CASTLE FOR THREE HUNDRED YEARS! NO BULLET CAN KILL ME, AND SOON, YOUR BLOOD WILL BE MINE!

I'LL GET RID OF YOU TWO CREATURES OF EVIL WHILE I'M AT IT!
BANG
BANG

A STAKE THROUGH A VAMPIRE'S BODY WILL STOP IT FOREVER! I READ THAT ONCE, AND THANK HEAVEN I REMEMBERED IT!

NO-- NOOOOOo.. GAHHAA!
IT-- IT WORKS!

LEAVING THE BODY OF THE BARONESS IN THE HALL, ANDY RUSHED THROUGH THE CASTLE LOOKING FOR HARLEY, AND...
HARLEY! DEAD!


DAYS LATER...
POOR FELLOW! THEY FOUND HIM WANDERING IN AN EMPTY CASTLE IN THE MOUNTAINS! ALL OF HIS COMPANIONS WERE EVIDENTLY KILLED IN A JEEP ACCIDENT! WE'VE FOUND NO TRACE OF THEM! JUST THE WRECKED JEEP! HE THINKS THEY WERE ALL KILLED BY A VAMPIRE!
THE END

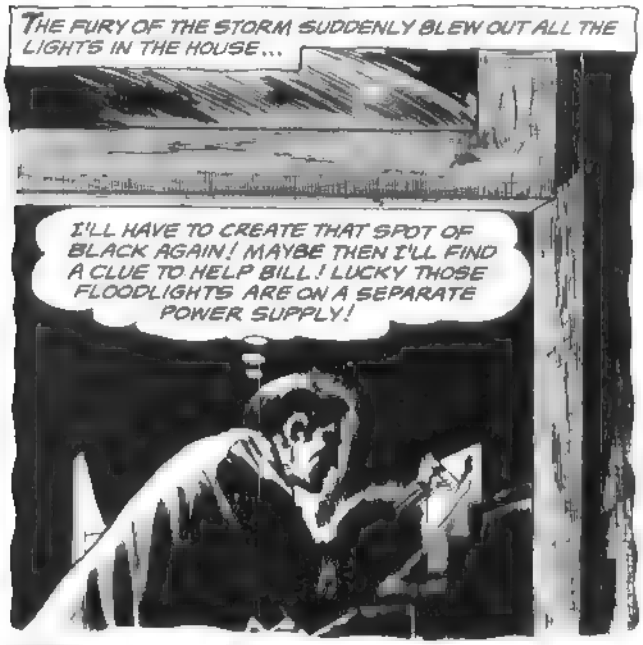
BLACK LIGHT TERROR

DARKNESS HAS ALWAYS BEEN THE BREEDING PLACE OF TERROR... THE UNKNOWN, WHERE HORRIBLE THINGS LURK... WAITING FOR THE CHANCE TO GRAB THE UNWARY! THIS IS THE TALE OF WILLIAM HENSON AND MICHAEL STROLLER, TWO MEN WHO PROBED THE DARKEST PLACE OF ALL...

I'M PULLING THE SWITCH KEEP YOUR EYE ON THAT SPOT WHERE ALL THE BEAMS CROSS!
WOW! YOU WERE RIGHT, BILL! ABSOLUTE BLACKNESS!
BILL! LOOK OUT! THAT BLACK SPOT! IT-- IT'S ALIVE!
I JUST KNEW IT WOULD WORK!
CLICK
QUICK-- THE SWITCH, BILL! TURN OFF THOSE LIGHTS BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE!
W--WHAT...?
WHEW, THAT WAS CLOSE, BILL!
IT DIDN'T REACH ME, I'D LIKE TO TRY TURNING THE LIGHTS ON AGAIN... SEEING IF IT WILL RETURN!
BUT YOU CAN'T, BILL! IT'S TOO DANGEROUS! THAT-- THAT-- THING--
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT, MICHAEL! I'VE FIGURED OUT A WAY OF AVOIDING THAT DANGER!

SOON...
I WISH YOU WOULDN'T, BILL! SOMEHOW, I-I'M AFRAID!
DON'T WORRY! THIS GLASS SHIELD WILL ALLOW THE LIGHT TO PASS THROUGH, BUT IT WILL KEEP WHATEVER IT WAS... FROM REACHING US!
LOOK, MICHAEL! IT'S MOVING AGAIN!
THAT THING IS EVIL, BILL! .. I'M WARNING YOU!
IT'S GROWING LARGER AND LARGER, BILL! HOW MUCH LONGER DO YOU THINK THE GLASS WILL HOLD?
MAYBE I BETTER TURN THE LIGHTS OFF AGAIN!
BUT, IN THE NEXT INSTANT...
MICHAEL SLOWLY RETURNED TO CONSCIOUSNESS, A SCREAM OF TERROR BURNING INTO HIS BRAIN...
WH--WHAT HAPPENED?
MICHAEL! HELP ME! HELP ME!
HURRY! HURRY, PLEASE!
TRY TO HOLD ON TILL I GET TO THE SWITCH, BILL!

YES... HENSON HAD BEEN SWALLOWED UP IN THE MAW OF DARKNESS... AND MICHAEL WAS ALONE!



THE BOTTOMLESS PIT OF PAIN FADED... AND THEN THERE WAS THE RETURN TO CONSCIOUSNESS...
BILL! I NEVER THOUGHT I'D SEE YOU AGAIN!
SO THEY GOT YOU, TOO? I WAS HOPING YOU'D ESCAPE!
THIS PLACE .. WHERE ARE WE? WHAT IS IT?
I'VE DISCOVERED THE ANSWER... AND IT'S HORRIBLE! ALMOST TOO HORRIBLE TO BE BELIEVE!
ALL THE TERRIBLE MONSTROSITIES OF MYTH AND LEGEND--THE MEDUSA ... THE DEMONS-- WERE RELEGATED TO DARKNESS AND FORCED TO STAY IN DARKNESS! WHEN I CREATED THE SPOT OF INFINITE BLACKNESS, I ALLOWED THEM AN OUT-LET TO LIFE AGAIN!
MORTALS ...COME ..
UH .. DID YOU HEAR SOMETHING BILL ...
COME! YOU MUST SEE THE MASTER OF ALL!
IT--IT CAN'T BE!
SANITY HUNG BY A TINY THREAD AS THE MEN WALKED THROUGH THIS WORLD OF DARKNESS...
IT'S THE DEVIL!

I SHALL MAKE GOOD USE OF YOU! YOU WILL BE ROBBED OF YOUR WILL--MADE TO JOIN OUR BLACK ARMY... MANY ARE NEEDED TO FIGHT THE FORCES OF RIGHTEOUSNESS...
WHAT CAN WE DO, MICHAEL? WE CAN'T LET OURSELVES HELP THESE DEMONS! BUT THERE'S NO HOPE... NO HOPE!
QUICK! LET'S MAKE A RUN FOR IT!
AFTER THEM! BRING THEM BACK ON THEIR KNEES!
IT'S A BLANK WALL-- A DEAD END! THEY'LL BE UPON US IN A SECOND!
IF ONLY WE HAD A WEAPON! ANY WEAPON!
THEN--FOR THE FIRST TIME-- MICHAEL REMEMBERED THE FLASHLIGHT HE WAS CARRYING...
WAIT! MAYBE WE DO HAVE A WEAPON! EVEN THOUGH THIS PLACE LOOKS AS LIGHT AS THE NORMAL WORLD, WE KNOW IT'S A PLACE OF DARKNESS, WHERE A REAL LIGHT MAY CAUSE TERROR! IT'S A DESPERATE CHANCE...

THEN AS THE CLOSEST OF THEIR PURSUERS WAS ALMOST UPON THEM, MICHAEL TURNED THE FLASHLIGHT UPON IT...
AAARRRGG!
AT LAST THEY WERE BACK IN THE CENTRAL CAVERN...
WHAT'S GOING ON?
LOOK! IT WORKS ON THE CREATURES... IF IT WILL ONLY WORK ON THE DEVIL, TOO!
I'LL SHOW YOU!
AIEEEEEEEE
THE BLACK WORLD SHIMMERED... REVOLVED AROUND THEM... AND DISAPPEARED! THEN, ASTONISHINGLY, THE WERE BACK IN THE LABORATORY...
HOW DID IT HAPPEN? WHAT BROUGHT US BACK?
YOUR FLASHLIGHT! IT WAS YOUR FLASHLIGHT!
WHO WOULD EVER BELIEVE THAT A SINGLE THING LIKE A FLASHLIGHT COULD SAVE THE WORLD FROM HORROR?
NO ONE, I'M SURE! ANYWAY, NOW THAT I'VE DESTROYED MY FLOODLIGHTS... I'M GOING TO DESTROY MY NOTES, TOO... SO THE MONSTERS WILL NEVER RETURN!
The End

A NEEDLE AND THREAD SEEM HARMLESS ENOUGH. BUT THEY CAN BECOME IMPLEMENTS OF HORROR AS CALEB WILKS FOUND OUT!

FROM THE GRAVE BELOW

MORE THAN HALF A CENTURY AGO, CALEB WILKS AND JEREMIAH BRANT WERE PARTNERS IN A SMALL TAILOR-SHOP... ***PARTNERS***...BUT NEVER ***FRIENDS!***

AND LATE THAT NIGHT, THE *FIENDISH* TAILOR BURIES HIS *MURDERED* PARTNER BEHIND THEIR TAILOR SHOP....!

MAY YOU REST IN PEACE, JEREMIAH! *HEE-HEE....!*

AFTER COMPLETING HIS NEFARIOUS WORK, CALEB RETURNS TO THE SHOP AND WORKS FAR INTO THE NIGHT...

ENOUGH FOR ONE NIGHT! I'LL HAVE MORE WORK FROM NOW ON...

SLEEP WELL, JEREMIAH! *HEE-HEE...!*

"..SLEEP WELL, JEREMIAH!"....IF CALEB HAD ONLY KNOWN THAT HIS DEAD, DEPARTED PARTNER WASN'T SLEEPING AT ALL!

SEWING TO BE DONE, AND MUCH OF IT MINE! I SHALL DO IT, CALEB! YOU SHALL SEE...! *HA-HA-HAA!*

THE NEXT MORNING....

STRANGE...! I MUST HAVE DONE THEM AND FORGOTTEN...YES, THAT'S IT!

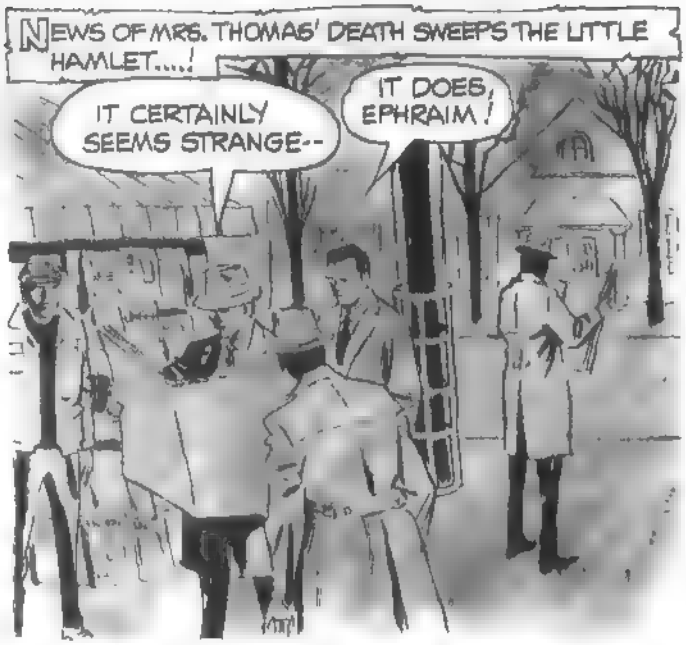
IS MY COAT READY, MR. WILKS?

YES, MRS. THOMAS! I HAVE IT RIGHT HERE!

CALEB WOULD HAVE BEEN SHOCKED HAD HE WITNESSED THE HORRIBLE SCENE THAT TRANSPIRED AT THE THOMAS HOME. ***SHOCKED*** BUT NO MORE SO THAN THE DOOMED WOMAN....!!

MY....HOW NICE! WHA....! THE COAT...! IT'S ALIVE! IT'S STRANGLING ME...!

AAAGGHHR... THE COAT!! AAIIEE!


NEWS OF MRS. THOMAS' DEATH SWEEPS THE LITTLE HAMLET.....!
IT CERTAINLY SEEMS STRANGE--
IT DOES, EPHRAIM!

AND THE FOLLOWING DAY, DEATH ONCE AGAIN STRIKES FIENDISHLY..!
CALEB DID A GOOD JOB, JOHN!
YES, HE...! WHA--!

THE COAT--! IT'S KILLING ME!!AAGHHRR..!
JOHN! WHAT--! HELP...!!

WHEN NEWS OF THE SECOND HORRIBLE AND MYSTERIOUS DEATH SPREADS....IT BECOMES THE TOPIC OF MUCH FRIGHTENED CONVERSATION AND CONJECTURE!
IT WAS THE COAT...! THE COAT KILLED MY HUSBAND!
HOW COULD A COAT STRANGLE A MAN?

NO...! IT CAN'T BE! YOU'RE WRONG!
CALEB WILKS IS IN LEAGUE WITH THE DEVIL!!
AND HE SEWED THE COAT....!

THE STRICKEN TAILOR RUSHES BACK TO THE SHOP, UNABLE TO EXPLAIN THE STRANGE TURN OF EVENTS!
...JERE....JEREMIAH... IT CAN'T BE....!

YOU...YOU'RE DEAD, I KILLED YOU...
BUT IT IS ME, CALEB! I HAVE RETURNED TO HELP YOU WITH YOUR WORK! HA-HA-HA....!

MADDENED WITH FEAR, THE HYSTERICAL CALEB RUSHES WILDLY FROM THE SHOP AND ITS GHASTLY VISITOR...TO JEREMIAH'S GRAVE!
I MUST SEE...! HE'S GOT TO BE HERE! HE MUST BE WITHIN!

YOU ARE STILL HERE, JEREMIAH! WHAT WAS I IN FEAR OF! IT WAS MY IMAGINATION....! THAT'S IT! A HALLUCINATION!

BUT THE NEXT DAY, DEATH AGAIN STRIKES....
AAGHHRRR--! I.....CAN'T.... BREATHE...!
THE COAT...! IT'S CALEB WILKS' COAT!! HELP...!

THE NORMALLY TRANQUIL COMMUNITY IS AROUSED TO DRASTIC ACTION BY THIS THIRD HIDEOUS DEATH....!
CALEB'S A WITCH! I SAY LET'S GET HIM!
YES...BEFORE HE GETS US! HE'S A SON OF SATAN!
LET'S GIVE THE DEVIL HIS DUE!

AND WHAT WAS A DISORGANIZED, FEARFUL GROUP, IS TRANSFORMED INTO A VICIOUS MOB....BENT UPON RETRIBUTION...!
THEY...THEY'RE COMING FOR ME! THEY THINK I'M RESPONSIBLE FOR THOSE DEATHS!
HIS ONE THOUGHT BUT TO SAVE HIS MISERABLE LIFE THE FEAR-CRAZED TAILOR THROWS HIS CLOAK OVER HIS SHOULDERS AND STARTS FOR THE REAR DOOR...!
THIS BUTTON...! IT WASN'T HERE BEFORE
IT'S JEREMIAH'S WORK...! THIS CLOAK...I-I'M BEING STRANGLED! AAARGGHHRR...!
HE'S INSIDE!
HE'S A WITCH!
BURN THE SHOP!
AND AS THE SHOP IS TRANSFORMED INTO A RAGING INFERNO, IT BECOMES THE FUNERAL PYRE FOR CALEB WILKS, WHO THOUGHT THAT A CRIME COULD BE BURIED FOREVER IN THE GRAVE....!
A!!!EEE...!
STRANGE...! DOESN'T THAT SOUND LIKE OLD JEREMIAH LAUGHING INSIDE!
THE END

THE VAMPIRE

LITTLE DID AL DESMOND KNOW HE WOULD BE IN A TERRIFYING WEB OF MYSTERY WHEN HE TOOK HIS FIANCÉE ON AN OUTING TO A TRAVELING CIRCUS THAT HAD COME TO TOWN! BUT THE HORRIBLE FATE THAT OVERTOOK HIM MIGHT OVERTAKE ANYONE---UNLESS AL DESMOND'S STRANGE STORY IS HEEDED!

REALLY, AL.... YOU'RE BEHAVING BADLY!
PALMISTRY IS NONSENSE ONLY TO FOOLS--AND I CAN SEE THAT YOU ARE NO FOOL. MAY I EXAMINE YOUR HAND?
SURE!

OHHHH!
HEY, WHAT'S WRONG?

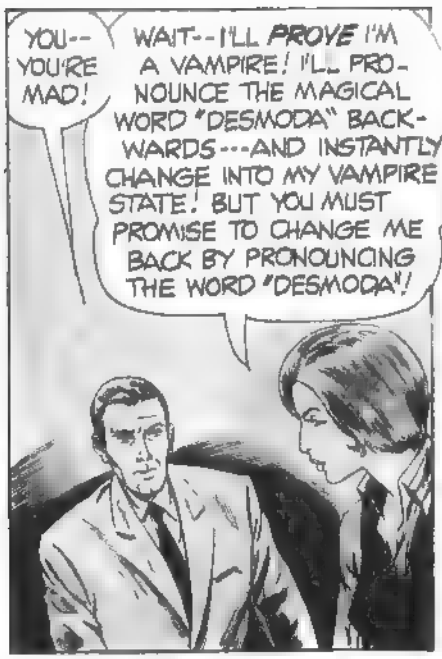
TELL ME... IS YOUR NAME, DESMOND?
WHY, YES-- BUT HOW DID YOU KNOW?

YOU WILL LEARN THE ANSWER AND A LOT MORE... F YOU COME TO MY TENT AT MIDNIGHT.
I... I'LL BE HERE... .. AT M DNIGHT!

I FORBID YOU TO VISIT THAT...THAT WITCH TONIGHT, AL!
I INTEND TO FIND OUT WHAT ELSE SHE HAS TO TELL ME-- AND NOTHING YOU CAN SAY WILL CHANGE MY MIND, LOUISE!

AS MIDNIGHT STRUCK, I MADE MY WAY TO DESMODA'S TENT....
I HAVE BEEN LOOKING FOR SOMEONE LIKE YOU FOR A LONG TIME---AND AT LAST I HAVE FOUND SOMEONE OF MY OWN KIND!
YOUR OWN KIND? WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

I AM A VAMPIRE---OF THE SPECIES DESMODA! MOST PEOPLE WHOSE NAMES ARE SIMILAR TO DESMODA HAVE A HISTORY OF VAMPIRISM IN THEIR FAMILIES!


YOU-- YOU'RE MAD!
WAIT--I'LL PROVE I'M A VAMPIRE! I'LL PRONOUNCE THE MAGICAL WORD "DESMODA" BACKWARDS---AND INSTANTLY CHANGE INTO MY VAMPIRE STATE! BUT YOU MUST PROMISE TO CHANGE ME BACK BY PRONOUNCING THE WORD "DESMODA"!

SHE'S REALLY OFF HER ROCKER!
ALL RIGHT, IF YOU CHANGE INTO A VAMPIRE, I'LL PRONOUNCE THE WORD, "DESMODA"!
GOOD! NOW WATCH.... ADOMSED!

GREAT SCOTT! SHE...SHE DID CHANGE INTO A VAMPIRE!

I....I'D BETTER GET OUT OF HERE---FAST!

OWW!

IT....IT'S CORNERED ME! I'D BETTER CHANGE HER BACK INTO HER HUMAN FORM....DESMODA!

YOU--YOU WERE RIGHT.... YOU'RE A WOMAN AGAIN!

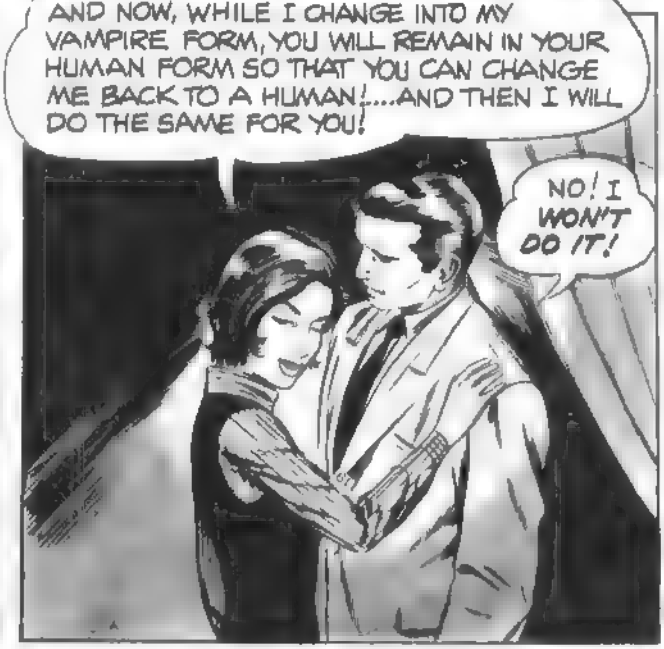
BELIEVE ME NOW?
Y-YES, I DO! BUT HOW DID YOU FIND THE SECRET OF TRANSFORMING YOURSELF INTO A VAMPIRE?

THE SECRET WAS PASSED DOWN FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION! BUT WHEN MY LAST LIVING RELATIVE---DIED RECENTLY, I STARTED LOOKING FOR ANOTHER VAMPIRE! I HAD TO FIND ONE, BECAUSE WHEN I CHANGE INTO A VAMPIRE, I LOSE THE POWER OF HUMAN SPEECH....

THAT WAS WHY I HAD TO FIND SOMEONE WHO WOULD CHANGE ME BACK INTO MY HUMAN FORM AFTER MY VAMPIRISH ORGIES! AND I FOUND YOU!

ME? SURELY THE NAME OF DESMOND ISN'T ENOUGH PROOF!
THERE ARE OTHER SIGNS! FOUR FINGERS OF YOUR HAND HAVE ELONGATED BONES--- WHILE YOUR THUMB IS SMALL AND FREE! IT'S SIMILAR TO A BAT'S HAND!

MY HANDS ARE UNUSUAL.. ....BUT I NEVER THOUGHT THEY WERE THE HANDS OF A VAMPIRE!
YES, THOSE ARE THE HANDS I'VE BEEN HOPING TO SEE EVER SINCE I BECAME A PALMIST!


AND NOW, WHILE I CHANGE INTO MY VAMPIRE FORM, YOU WILL REMAIN IN YOUR HUMAN FORM SO THAT YOU CAN CHANGE ME BACK TO A HUMAN!....AND THEN I WILL DO THE SAME FOR YOU!
NO! I WON'T DO IT!

I'LL NEVER JOIN YOU IN SUCH A FIENDISH PARTNERSHIP--I'LL NEVER CHANGE INTO A VAMPIRE!
FOOL! I CAN CHANGE YOU INTO ONE INSTANTLY BY PRONOUNCING THE WORD BACKWARDS!...SUDOMSED!

"AND THE NEXT INSTANT I WAS A VAMPIRE, WITH A HORRIBLE THIRST FOR BLOOD!"
NOW YOU'RE IN MY POWER BECAUSE I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN MAKE YOU HUMAN AGAIN!

I KNOW YOU'VE STILL GOT HUMAN INSTINCTS IN YOU, BUT YOU'LL LOSE THEM AS SOON AS YOU TASTE THE BLOOD OF YOUR FIRST VICTIM! THEN YOU'LL BE A FULLFLEDGED VAMPIRE LIKE ME!

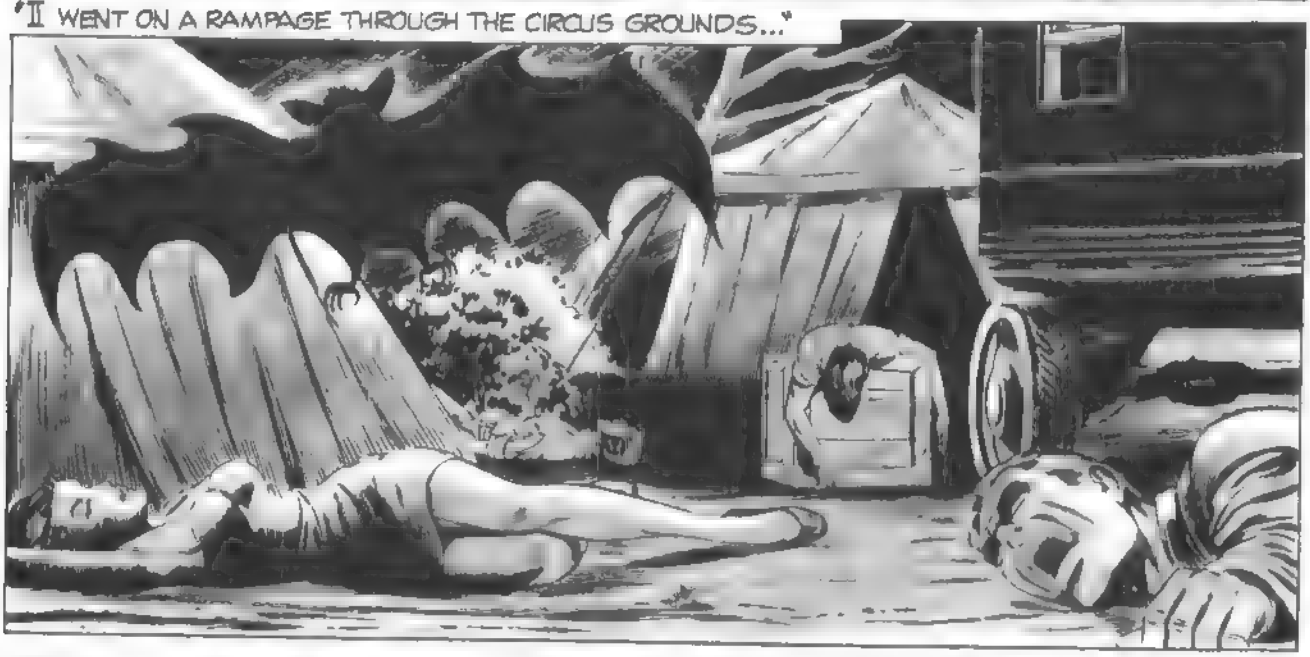
"THE THOUGHT OF BEING A LIFELONG SLAVE TO THAT FEMALE FIEND FILLED ME WITH HORROR! ENRAGED, I ADVANCED ON HER!"
BACK, YOU FOOL! IF ANYTHING HAPPENS TO ME, YOU'LL NEVER BE RESTORED TO HUMAN FORM!

"IT DIDN'T MATTER WHETHER OR NOT I EVER ASSUMED HUMAN FORM AGAIN! ALL THAT MATTERED WAS THAT I HAD TO KILL....KILL... KILL!"
I'M DEFENSELESS AGAINST YOU IN MY HUMAN FORM....BUT NOT IN MY VAMPIRE FORM!...ADOMSED!

"I LEAPED ON HER, BUT IT WAS TOO LATE--FOR SHE HAD ALREADY CHANGED INTO A VAMPIRE! THEN BEGAN A BATTLE TO THE DEATH!"

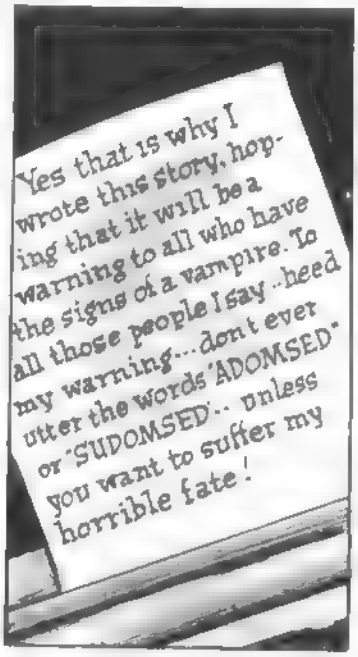
"....A BATTLE WHICH I WON, THANKS TO MY GREATER WEIGHT AND STRENGTH!"

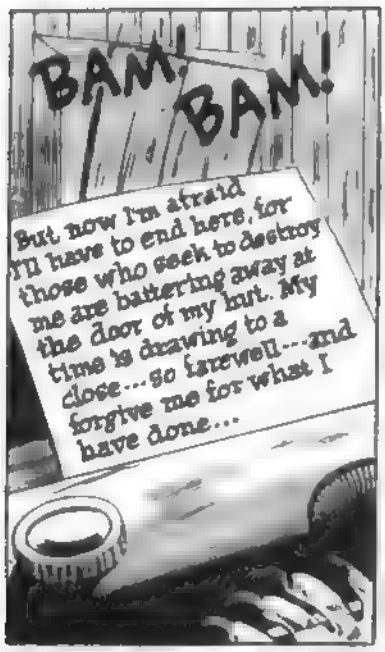
"BUT NOW THAT I HAD SLAIN MY FIRST VICTIM, MY APPETITE FOR BLOOD WAS WHETTED--AND UNABLE TO CONTROL MYSELF, I FLEW OFF IN SEARCH OF OTHER VICTIMS!"

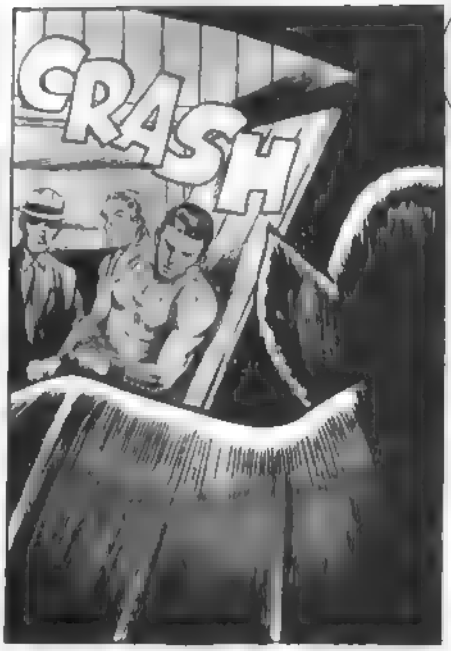

"I WENT ON A RAMPAGE THROUGH THE CIRCUS GROUNDS..."

"THE SHRIEKS OF MY DYING VICTIMS AROUSED THE ENTIRE CIRCUS.. ...DESPERATELY I SOUGHT SANCTUARY....."
THERE HE GOES---INTO THE MANAGER'S HUT!

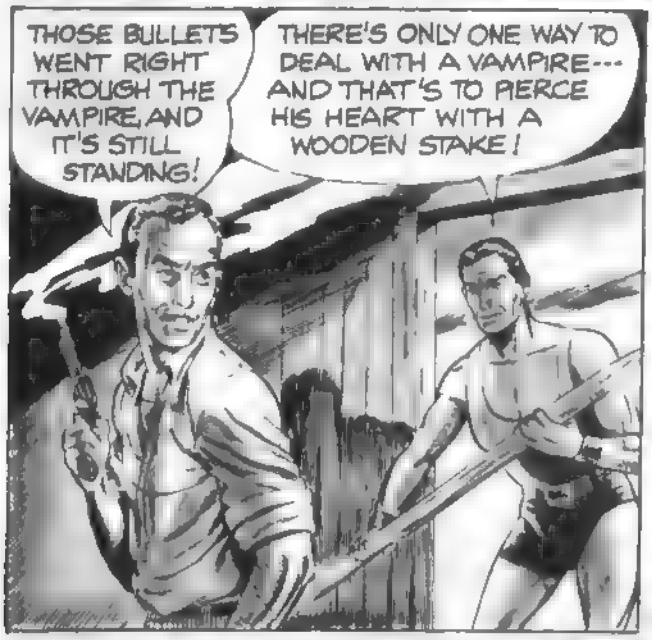
I BARRED THE DOOR, KNOWING I COULD ONLY POSTPONE MY DOOM---AND MY ONLY CHANCE FOR ATONEMENT WAS TO WRITE A LETTER OF WARNING TO THE WORLD...."


Yes that is why I wrote this story, hoping that it will be a warning to all who have the signs of a vampire. To all those people I say ..heed my warning... don't ever utter the words 'ADOMSED' or 'SUDOMSED'.. unless you want to suffer my horrible fate!


BAM! BAM!
But now I'm afraid I'll have to end here, for those who seek to destroy me are battering away at the door of my hut. My time is drawing to a close...so farewell...and forgive me for what I have done...


CRASH

THERE'S THE VAMPIRE--- SHOOT IT DOWN!
BULLETS CAN'T HURT A VAMPIRE--BUT I'LL GET SOMETHING THAT WILL!


THOSE BULLETS WENT RIGHT THROUGH THE VAMPIRE, AND IT'S STILL STANDING!
THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY TO DEAL WITH A VAMPIRE--- AND THAT'S TO PIERCE HIS HEART WITH A WOODEN STAKE!

AND THIS POINTED TENT POLE MAKES AN EXCELLENT STAKE!

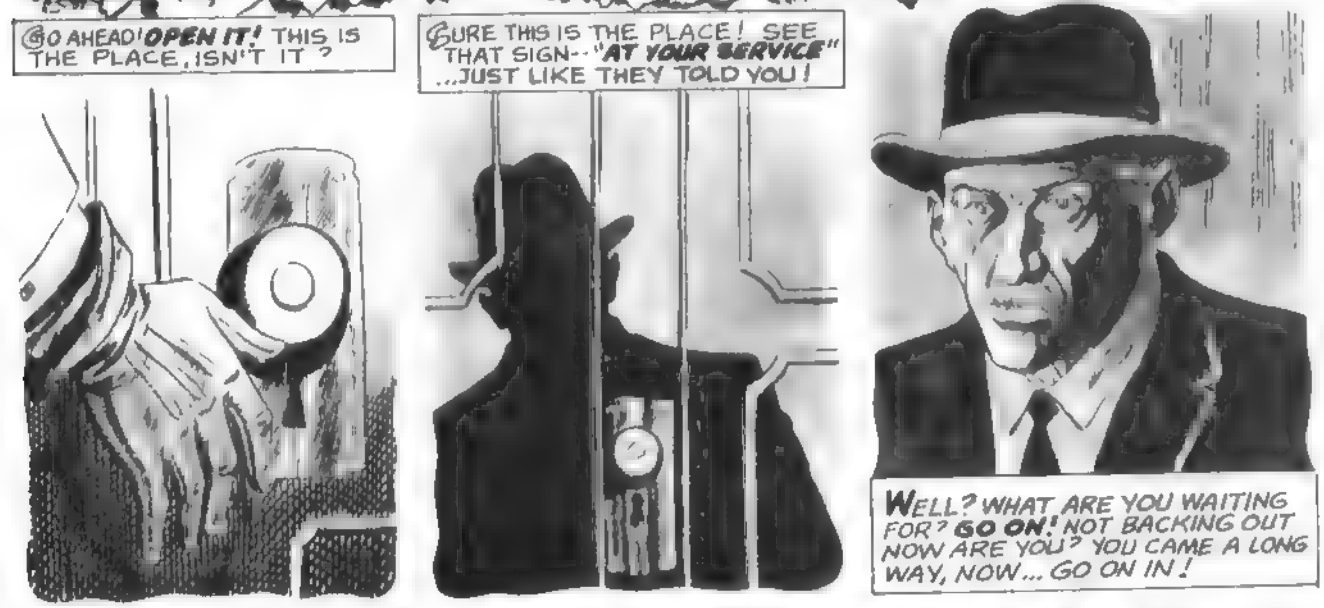
THAT'S THE END OF THAT VAMPIRE! I GUESS WE'LL NEVER KNOW WHAT MADE HIM THE WAY HE WAS!
MAYBE WE WILL KNOW! HE SEEMS TO HAVE LEFT A LETTER IN MY TYPEWRITER!

HMMM, STRANGEST STORY I EVER READ! THERE'S NO TELLING WHETHER IT'S TRUE OR NOT, BUT THE LEAST I CAN DO IS SEND IT ON TO THE MAGAZINE IT WAS ADDRESSED TO... JUST IN CASE THE STORY IS TRUE!

The End

THE CUSTOMER IS ALWAYS RIGHT... ANY CLERK WILL TELL YOU THAT, BUT YOU MUST REMEMBER...

SATAN'S CAT



ENTER, MONSIEUR! YOU HAVE BEEN LOOKING FOR ME, EH?
TRUE, BUT HOW DID YOU KNOW?

I KNOW MANY THINGS... NOW HOW CAN I SERVE YOU?
WELL, ER--

CAN I TALK HERE?
CERTAINLY! DIABLO WILL NOT TELL YOUR SECRET!

I WANT YOU TO MURDER MY WIFE!

MURDER IS SUCH A HORRIBLE WORD, MONSIER... LET'S SAY... DO AWAY WITH!
CALL IT WHAT YOU WILL... BUT IT MUST BE SOON!

BUT WHAT IS YOUR HURRY? SERVICES LIKE THIS CANNOT BE RUSHED!
BUT IT HAS TO BE! SHE PLANS TO RUN AWAY WITH A YOUNGER MAN NEXT FRIDAY!

TELL ME ABOUT HER! THERE MUST BE NO MISTAKES AS TO HER IDENTITY! IN MY BUSINESS, ONE CANNOT AFFORD TO MAKE A MISTAKE!
WELL, SHE'S TALL, BLONDE, STRIKING TO LOOK AT AND SHE HAS A TINY SCAR ON HER LEFT CHEEK!

HMM.. THAT'S ABOUT ALL, I GUESS... OH, YES... HER NAME IS...
NO NAMES, MONSIEUR! ONE CANNOT BE TOO CAREFUL IN MY OCCUPATION!

ANY HABIT? ANYTHING AT ALL! SOMETHING THAT MIGHT HELP ME PERFORM THIS, ER... SERVICE!
YES--COME TO THINK OF IT, SHE HAS A GREAT FONDNESS FOR LICORICE... AS A MATTER OF FACT, WE BOTH DO... BUT THAT MIGHT HELP YOU!

LICORICE, EH? THEN IT SHOULD BE SIMPLE TO ARRANGE! A LITTLE PRICK OF THE NEEDLE ON A FEW PIECES AND THEN... IT'S ALL OVER!
DON'T DESCRIBE IT! I DON'T WANT TO KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT IT!

SORRY, MONSIER, I DID NOT KNOW YOU WERE SO SQUEAMISH! BUT NOW TO THE BUSINESS AT HAND!
YES, YOUR FEE! I WILL DOUBLE IT IF YOU CAN DO A RUSH JOB FOR ME!

I WOULD LIKE TO HELP YOU, SIR, BUT YOU KNOW THE CUSTOMER IS ALWAYS RIGHT--- AND I HAVE ANOTHER SERVICE TO PERFORM BEFORE YOURS!
WHAT LUCK! BUT YOU WILL DO IT BEFORE FRIDAY, WON'T YOU?

CERTAINLY! IT SEEMS LIKE A FAIRLY SIMPLE JOB! THERE SHOULDN'T BE ANY COMPLICATIONS!
GOOD! WELL, THEN, HERE'S YOUR MONEY!

THANK YOU, SIR ... THANK YOU! NOW, REMEMBER... DON'T EVER CONTACT ME AGAIN... UNLESS OF COURSE YOU SHOULD EVER FIND NEED OF MY SERVICES!
DON'T WORRY ABOUT THAT... I'M GOING ABROAD VERY SHORTLY!

HAVE A NICE TRIP, SIR... AND DON'T WORRY ABOUT A THING-- I'LL TAKE CARE OF EVERYTHING BY FRIDAY!
ALL RIGHT, THEN! BUT I WISH YOU COULD DO THIS SERVICE FIRST! OH, WELL, I GUESS YOU KNOW YOUR BUSINESS BEST!

THE IMPATIENCE OF SOME PEOPLE. EH, DIABLO? COME... LET US PREPARE FOR THE OTHER ASSIGNMENT!

THIS WILL BE SIMPLER THAN I IMAGINED... ELDERLY MAN... SLIGHT SCAR ON FORHEAD... WEARS SPATS... LIKES LICORICE... WIFE WANTS TO DO AWAY WITH HIM!

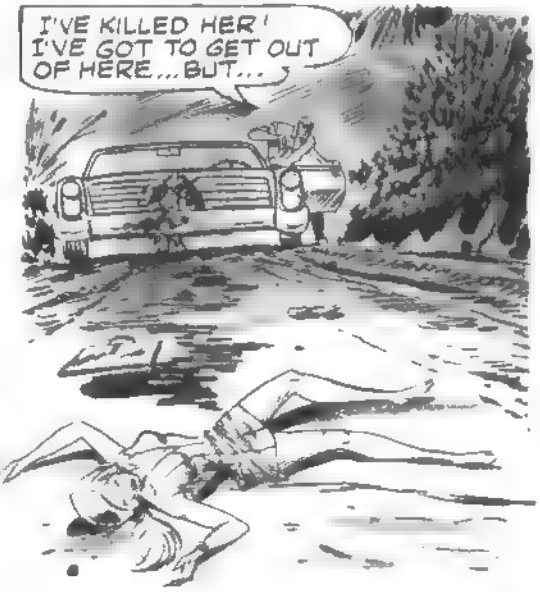
IF HE ONLY KNEW... BUT THE CUSTOMER IS ALWAYS RIGHT... ONLY-- FIRST COME FIRST SERVED! HEH... HEH... HEH!
THE END

IF HENRY MASON THOUGHT THAT THE PAYMISTRESS WAS BEAUTIFUL, HE HADN'T MET...
THE DEVIL'S ZOMBIE
THIS PLACE GIVES ME THE CREEPS!
THERE'S AN EERINESS HANGING IN THE AIR THAT I DON'T LIKE! SOMETHING'S WRONG! I CAN FEEL IT!

GOT TO GET UP ENOUGH SPEED AND GET OUT OF THIS SWAMP! IT'S ENOUGH TO DRIVE A MAN CRAZY!

HEAVENS! THERE'S A GIRL... SHE'S IN MY WAY... ...I CAN'T STOP!

HORRORS! I'VE HIT HER! GOT TO STOP...
SCREEECH!


I'VE KILLED HER! I'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE... BUT...

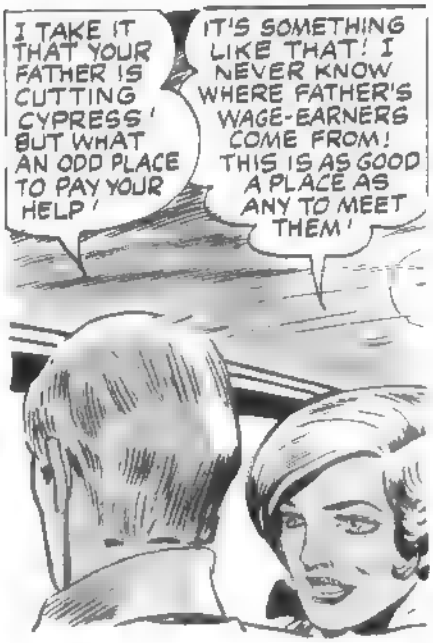
I'VE GOT TO WIPE THIS -- WHAT IS IT? IT'S STICKY LIKE BLOOD, BUT IT'S GREEN...
HELLO...

YOU GAVE ME QUITE A BUMP!
WHAT?

THEN I DIDN'T KILL YOU? IN FACT I DIDN'T EVEN SPOIL YOUR DRESS!
OH YOU RUINED MY CLOTHES, BUT I HAD OTHERS IN MY SUITCASE! I CHANGED BEFORE COMING HERE INTO THE LIGHT!

WHEW! WELL AT LEAST LET ME DRIVE YOU HOME!
WOULD YOU MIND?

WHY WAS A LOVELY CREATURE LIKE YOU DOING ON THAT ROAD?
I HAVE TO MEET SOMEONE, TO GIVE HIM HIS WAGES-- FOR FATHER! TURN HERE! I LIVE HERE IN THE EVERGLADES!


I TAKE IT THAT YOUR FATHER IS CUTTING CYPRESS! BUT WHAT AN ODD PLACE TO PAY YOUR HELP!
IT'S SOMETHING LIKE THAT! I NEVER KNOW WHERE FATHER'S WAGE-EARNERS COME FROM! THIS IS AS GOOD A PLACE AS ANY TO MEET THEM!

I DON'T THINK YOU CAN GO FARTHER! THANKS! WISH YOU COULD STOP A WHILE, BUT I SUPPOSE YOU HAVE BUSINESS OF YOUR OWN!
YES... AN APPOINTMENT, BUT...

I'LL SEE YOU AGAIN, WON'T I? I'M HENRY MASON!
OH, OF COURSE, HENRY... WHEN YOU'RE THROUGH WITH YOUR--APPOINTMENT-- I'LL BE WAITING FOR YOU RIGHT HERE!

BUT, HOW WILL YOU KNOW... UH SHE'S GONE!

A STRANGE GIRL... BUT WHAT A BABE! YES, I'LL SEE HER AGAIN, ALL RIGHT. SHE AND I WILL BE KISSING THIS... GHASTLY SWAMP GOOD-BYE... SOONER THAN SHE KNOWS!

TURNING THE CAR BACK TO THE HIGHWAY, HENRY AGAIN HEADED TOWARD HIS DESTINATION...
AN EVILNESS WAS HIS COMPANION AS HE DROVE TOWARD AN UNSUSPECTING BUT WORRIED FIANCEE!
BUT LITTLE DID HENRY MASON SUSPECT THAT EVILNESS WAS TO BE HIS UNDOING, EVEN THOUGH IT SAT BESIDE HIM AND WAS IN HIS HEART...
HERE AT LAST... NOW FOR THE DIRTY WORK!
BUT EVEN AS HENRY MASON RANG THE DOORBELL TO CALL ON HIS TRUSTING DATE, HE SENSED A SINISTER FEELING THAT OVERPOWERED HIM...
...CASTING HIS FEARS TO ONE SIDE... HE ENTERED THE HOUSE...
OH, HENRY, I WAS SO WORRIED WHEN YOU DIDN'T COME!
I WAS DELAYED, DARLING! IS EVERYTHING READY?
I'VE DRAWN ALL MY MONEY FROM THE BANK, DEAREST. HERE IT IS!
GOOD! AND THE CARDS?

YES, I HAVE THEM ALL HERE! LISTEN TO THIS: "DEAR COUSIN BLANCHE... HENRY AND I ARE SO HAPPY! WE ARE SPENDING A FEW DAYS AT NIAGRA FALLS..

IT WAS A STROKE OF GENIUS YOUR SUGGESTING WE WRITE ALL OF OUR CARDS BEFORE LEAVING, DEAR! NOW WE CAN SPEND EVERY MINUTE TOGETHER!
THEN LET'S GO, SWEETHEART! IF YOU WANT YOUR OLD FAMILY PASTOR TO PERFORM THE CEREMONY, WE'LL HAVE TO DRIVE ALL NIGHT TO REACH HIS PRESENT PARISH!

I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU MAN AND WIFE!

IT'S ODD, HENRY, THAT HAVING LIVED AROUND HERE ALL YOUR LIFE, YOU SHOULD INSIST ON DRIVING TO THESE SWAMPS TODAY!
I REALLY NEVER HAD TIME TO VISIT THEM, MY LOVE, AND THOUGHT I SHOULD BEFORE DRIVING NORTH! LET'S GET OUT OF THE CAR!

HERE, DEEP IN THE SWAMPLAND, YOU CAN FEEL THE POWER OF NATURE!
IT'S ACTUALLY SPOOKY! I'D BE FRIGHTENED TO DEATH IF I WEREN'T WITH YOU!

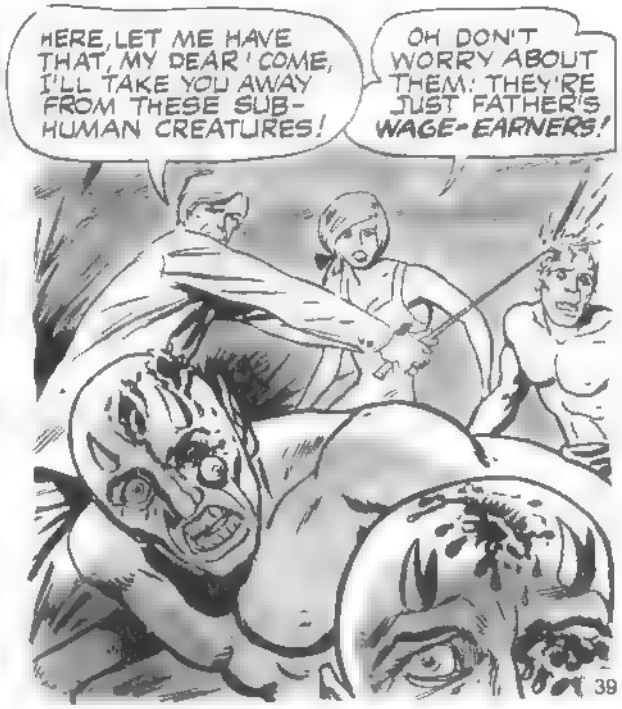
HENRY, YOU'RE PRESSING MY THROAT! HENRY, YOU'RE CHOKING... WHAT ARE YOU DOING? HENRY!
YOU GET THE IDEA!

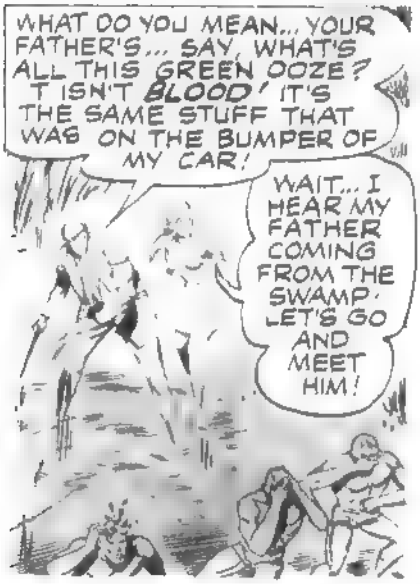
TWENTY THOUSAND DOLLARS IN CASH... A STACK OF POST CARDS TO THROW RELATIVES OFF THE TRACK! I GUESS IT'S TIME TO SEE MY LITTLE BEAUTY OF THE SWAMPS!

I KNEW YOU'D COME, HENRY.. I WANT YOU TO MEET THE REST!
I GOT HERE AS FAST AS I COULD!

HELLO, EVERYONE! THIS IS HENRY!
HENRY!
HENRY!
LET US FEEL HIM!

YES! FEEL HIM! THIS IS HENRY!
AWK!
KEEP YOUR HANDS OFF HIM!


HERE, LET ME HAVE THAT, MY DEAR! COME, I'LL TAKE YOU AWAY FROM THESE SUB-HUMAN CREATURES!
OH DON'T WORRY ABOUT THEM: THEY'RE JUST FATHER'S WAGE-EARNERS!


WHAT DO YOU MEAN... YOUR FATHER'S... SAY, WHAT'S ALL THIS GREEN OOZE? IT ISN'T BLOOD! IT'S THE SAME STUFF THAT WAS ON THE BUMPER OF MY CAR!
WAIT... I HEAR MY FATHER COMING FROM THE SWAMP! LET'S GO AND MEET HIM!

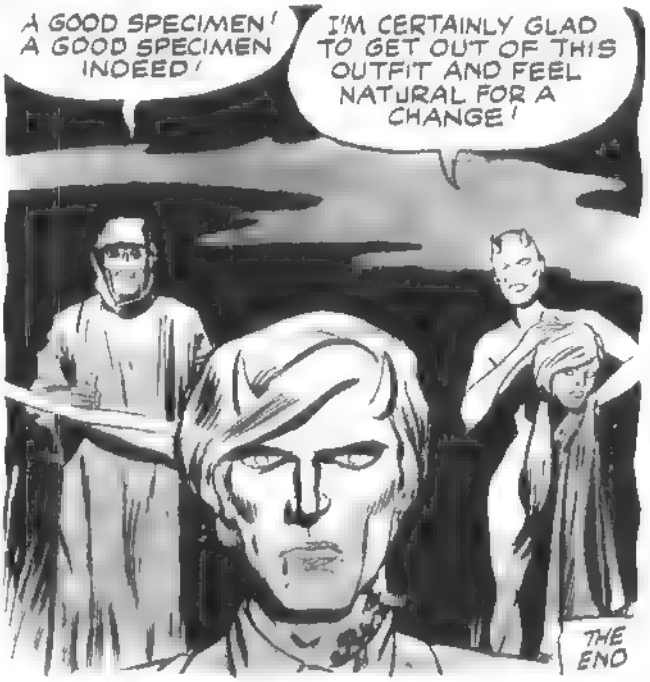
FATHER! I HAVE ANOTHER WAGE EARNER... HENRY MASON!

HEY, WAIT A MINUTE! WHAT'S ALL THIS ABOUT? I DON'T WORK FOR YOUR FATHER!
WHO SAID YOU DID?

THEN WHAT WAGES ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
WHY, THE WAGES OF SIN... DEATH!

ARGH-H-H-H!

HERE IS HENRY FATHER! HE'LL FIND OTHER WAGE-EARNERS FOR YOU... FOR HE REALLY RECOGNIZES SIN!!

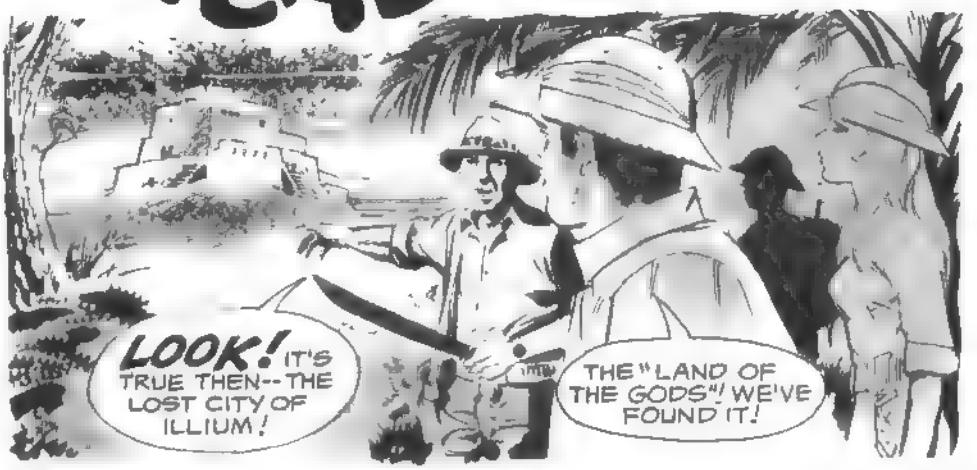

A GOOD SPECIMEN! A GOOD SPECIMEN INDEED!
I'M CERTAINLY GLAD TO GET OUT OF THIS OUTFIT AND FEEL NATURAL FOR A CHANGE!
THE END

FOUR SAW THE LEGENDARY FACE OF UNUTTERABLE DOOM--AND EACH ONE MET A FATE TOO HORRIBLE TO DESCRIBE! BUT ONE AMONG THEM WAS THE TRUE GHOUL FROM THE BEYOND!

A HEAD FULL OF SNAKES

MACAGNO

ALL OF US WERE SCIENTISTS, HUGO HOFF, RICHARD DARE, AND I, JACK CROWL VIVIEN MADE A CHARMING AND VERY EFFICIENT FOURTH! WE HAD TRAVELED FOR MONTHS INTO IMPENETRABLE JUNGLE... AND NOW WE SAW IT



I THREW A GRENADE INTO THE CLOSED CORRIDOR, ALLOWING THEM TO ENTER THE TEMPLE...

LOOK! YOU'VE OPENED UP SOME SORT OF PASSAGE WAY INSIDE!
CAREFUL, EVERYONE! STAY CLOSE TO EACH OTHER!

MOMENTS LATER...
CAN YOU MAKE OUT WHAT IT IS?
I DON'T SEE IT TOO CLEARLY IT THIS GLOOM!

NIIIIEEEEE! LOOK! LOOK!

THE SIGHT OF THAT HORRIBLE, MONSTROUS FACE FILLED ME WITH A DREAD THAT FROZE THE BLOOD IN MY VEINS! SUDDENLY-- I WAS SLOWLY BECOMING PARALYZED...
EEEEEE! WE'RE TURNING INTO STONE!
I'VE GOT TO DESTROY! THAT HEAD!

WE FOLLOWED IT INTO THE INNER-CHAMBER OF THE RUINED TEMPLE! SUDDENLY THE CREATURE TURNED ON US... **READY TO KILL!!**

WE TRAVELED BACK TO THE COAST WITHIN TEN DAYS...TWO WEEKS LATER WE WERE BACK IN THE UNITED STATES SAFE AND SOUND...
ALL OF US HAD DECIDED NEVER TO MENTION RICHARD DARE'S TRUE FATE! THEN ONE DAY...
JACK--SOMETHING HORRIBLE HAS HAPPENED! IT'S HUGO! COME OVER RIGHT AWAY!
ALL RIGHT! AT ONCE!
VIV GAVE ME AN ADDRESS AT WHICH I WOULD MEET HER, BUT WHEN I SAW WHERE I WAS...
VIVIENE! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE? WHERE IS HUGO?
IN THERE, JACK! OOH--IT'S TERRIBLE! COME!...
GOOD HEAVENS! WHAT? HOW?
THE MEDUSA GHOUL MUST HAVE KILLED HIM!
BUT WHY HUGO AND NOT US? VIV... WE MUST BE NEXT!
WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO?
THERE WAS NOTHING TO DO--ONE MORNING...
"FIENDISH CREATURE ROAMS CITY STREETS! NONE SAFE FROM MURDERING GHOUL!" NO! IT CAN'T BE! IT IT JUST CAN'T BE! I--I'VE GOT TO ACT FAST!
IDEA AFTER IDEA--WENT THROUGH MY MIND! I KNEW WHO THE GHOUL WAS! I COULD SEE THE ACTUAL EVENTS OF HOW THE CREATURE LAY IN WAIT FOR ITS VICTIMS AT NIGHT!
DO NOT RUN, PUNY ONE! YOU CANNOT ESCAPE THE MEDUSA! HA, HA, HA!
HELP! HELP! DON'T TOUCH ME! AIIEEEE!

STOP! YOU'LL NEVER GET AWAY!
ANOTHER NECK HAS BEEN BITTEN-- I ALWAYS CONQUER-- HA, HA, HA...

I RESOLVE TO FIND VIV THAT NIGHT... FOR THE GHOUL COULD BE HER, NO ONE ELSE! LATER, I FOUND HER NEAR THE OUT-SKIRTS OF THE CITY...
OHH-- IT'S YOU! I--I THOUGHT YOU WERE THE...
YES, I KNOW, AND I THOUGHT YOU WERE THE GHOUL! V.V, DO YOU SUPPOSE HUGO HAS COME BACK?

HAVE YOU OPENED THE CRYPT YET, JACK?
I--I THINK IT'S STARTING TO GIVE WAY!

CAN I HELP? PERHAPS IF YOU USE THAT CROW-BAR, IT MIGHT WEDGE IT OPEN!
NO! IT'S MOVING! ONE MORE HEAVE AND I'LL...

HAH-HA

YOU! BUT WHY DID YOU WAIT SO LONG TO REVEAL YOURSELF TO ME?
BECAUSE IT WOULD BE ABSOLUTELY PRIVATE HERE... SO NICE AND QUIET--SO COMPLETELY PERFECT FOR-- DEATH!! HA, HA, HA, HA...

THE EVIL HORROR SPRANG AT ME, I SPRANG BACK AND GRABBED THE NEAREST THING AT HAND-- THE SHARP POINTED CROWBAR...
YOU FORGOT ONE THING--THIS CROWBAR!
IT'S DEAD, AND I'M STILL ALIVE!--GOT TO GET BACK HOME, GOT TO PULL MYSELF TOGETHER!
LATER
WHO WILL EVER BELIEVE WHAT HAPPENED? THEY'LL NEVER FIND HER AGAIN. BUT WHY AM I SO WEAK--SO--SO VERY WEAK--?
MY FACE SEEMS TO BE GETTING NUMB. I--I DON'T KNOW WHEN I'VE EVER FELT SO BAD!
THEN IT SUDDENLY DAWNED UPON ME THAT THERE IS ONLY ONE TYPE OF MORTAL WHO CAN CHANGE BACK AND FORTH INTO A CREATURE AT WILL. NOW YOU UNDERSTAND?
NO DON'T LOOK AT ME. MY STORY IS FINISHED. WHAT--? YOU WOULD STILL LIKE TO SEE MY FACE?
THEN GAZE UPON ME! FOR I AM THE TRUE GHOUL! THOSE OTHER THREE CHANGED INVOLUNTARILY--BUT I--HA-HA... I CAN LIVE FOREVER! COME CLOSER TO ME! JUST ONE LITTLE BITE ON YOUR THROAT! HA, HA, HA, HA AHA, HA!

WHAT STRANGE AND GHASTLY SECRETS HAD THE ANCIENT INN TO TELL? WHAT EVIL POWER DID IT EXERT TO LURE MEN WITHIN ITS WALLS???

The SKIN CRAWLERS

DARNTON'S FEET SEARCHED THE DARK STAIRS WHEN HE SAW...
THAT LIGHT.. IT'S WEIRD... GHOSTLY! SEEMS TO PULL AT ME!
THE NEXT DAY...

THE STRANGE LIGHT DREW DARNTON LIKE A MAGNET AND SLOWLY HE STARTED DOWN THE STEPS...
WHAT AN UNUSUAL LIGHT? EVERYONE'S ASLEEP! I'LL GO DOWN NOW! MUST FIND OUT!

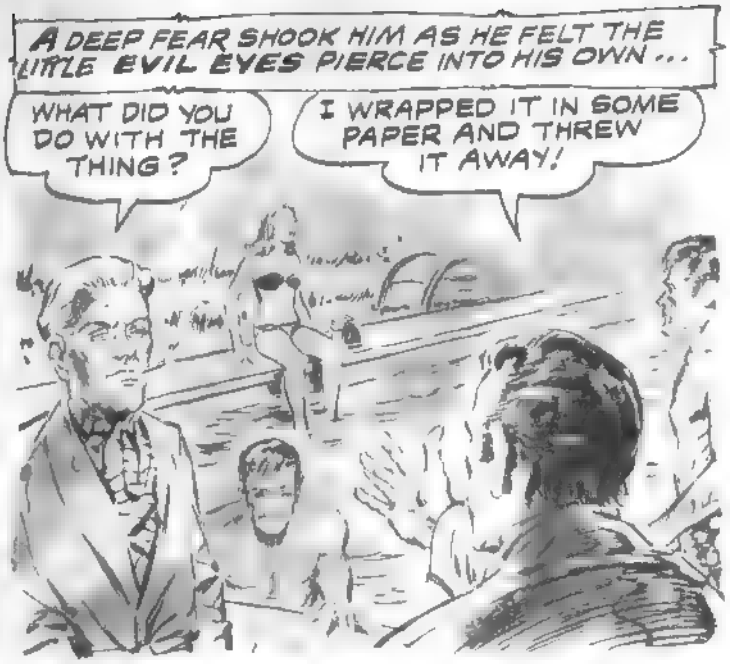
SLOWLY, CAREFULLY, DARNTON CRAWLED DOWN THE STAIRS AND STEPPED THRU THE LIGHTED DOOR INTO A WORLD OF HORROR
UGGH! GHASTLY! I-I'VE GOT TO GET AWAY BEFORE THEY SEE ME!

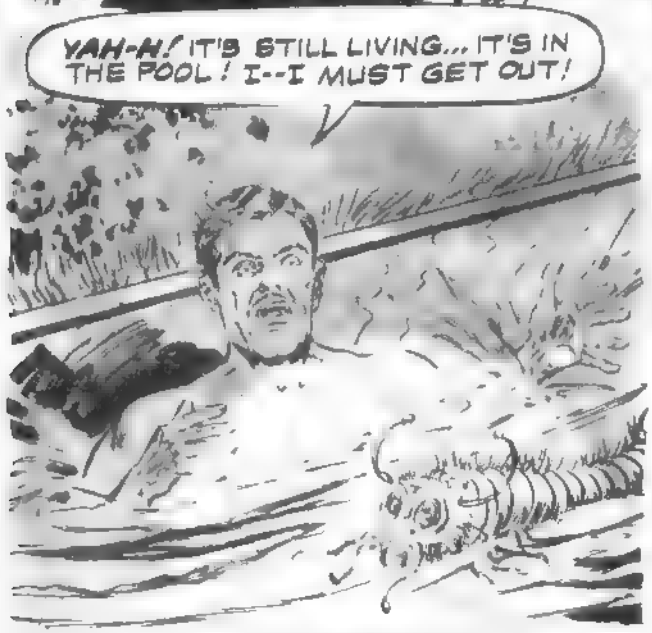
HELP! HELP!

THIS IS THE LIFE! I'M GLAD YOU TALKED ME INTO COMING HERE! WHAT'S THE MATTER? YOU'RE NOT ILL?
NO, I'M O.K.!
NO SENSE TELLING ANYONE WHAT I SAW! THEY'D THINK I WAS MAD!

HEY, THERE'S A CATERPILLAR ON MY LEG!
I'LL GET IT OFF!

IT...IT'S THE SAME AS THE ONES I SAW IN THE ROOM THEN I'M NOT MAD BUT...THIS ONE IS SO SMALL WHILE THE OTHERS...

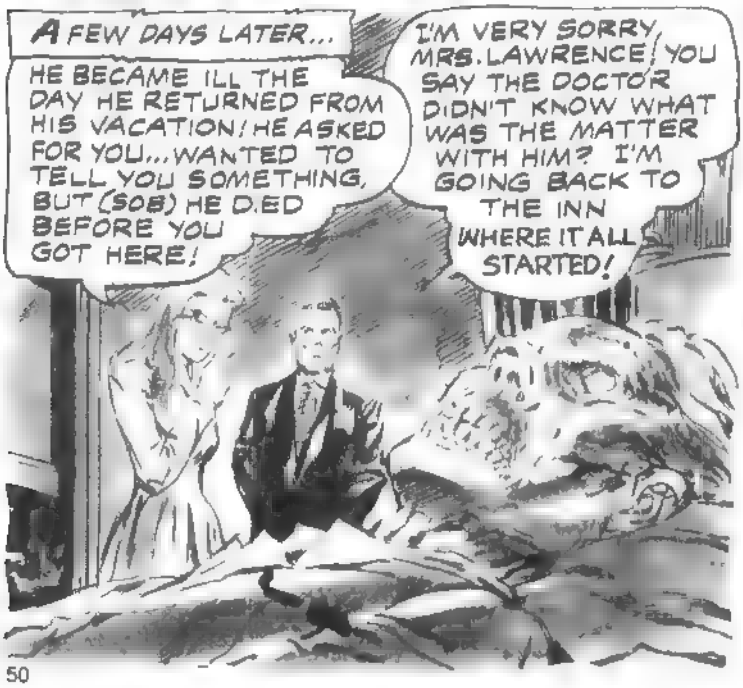

A DEEP FEAR SHOOK HIM AS HE FELT THE LITTLE EVIL EYES PIERCE INTO HIS OWN...
WHAT DID YOU DO WITH THE THING?
I WRAPPED IT IN SOME PAPER AND THREW IT AWAY!

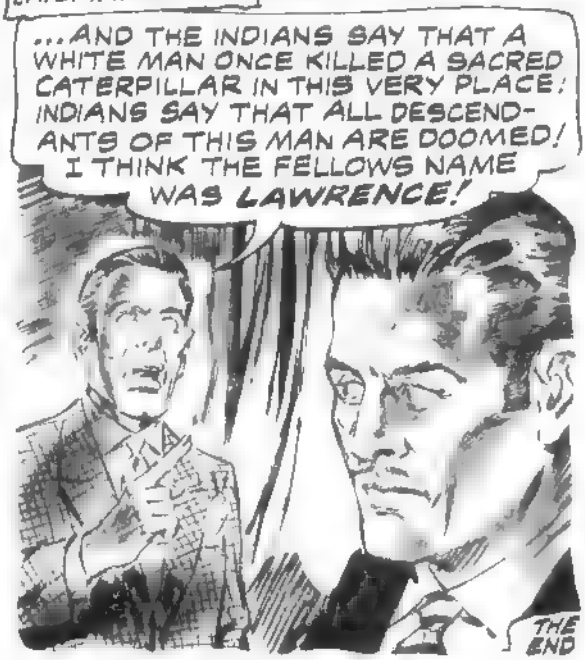

YAH-H! IT'S STILL LIVING... IT'S IN THE POOL! I--I MUST GET OUT!

YOU'RE LOOKING TERRIBLE, JIM! IF YOU'RE NOT IMPROVED BY TOMORROW, I'M GOING TO CALL A DOCTOR! GOOD NIGHT!
THE LIGHTS ON AGAIN! THIS TIME IT'S BRIGHTER!
...I MUST GET IN THAT ROOM AGAIN IF ONLY TO PROVE I WASN'T SEEING THOSE THINGS!
ER... ...GOOD NIGHT!

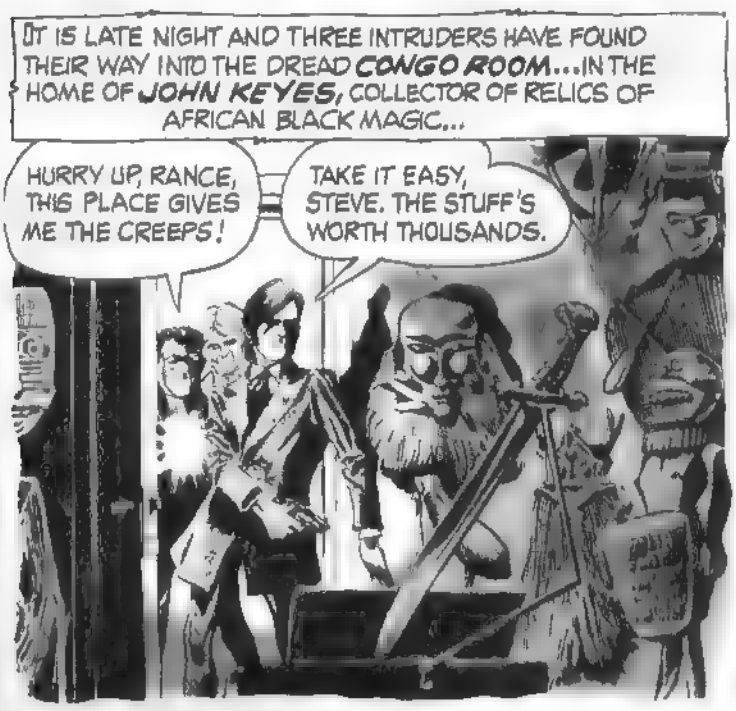
LATER AS DARNTON ENTERS THE ROOM HE WAS SHOCKED AS THE FETID CREATURES SILENTLY MOVE, SLITHERING LIKE WORMS TOWARD HIM.
THEY'RE AFTER ME! THEY... THEY'RE GOING TO KILL ME FOR SEEING THE ROOM... HELP...PLEASE...

THROUGH THE SLEEPLESS NIGHT, DARNTON PACED THE FLOOR, PALE WITH FRIGHT! AT DAWN HE WENT TO LAWRENCE'S ROOM.





THE EVIL IDOL



TOO BAD YOU GOT A LOOK AT ME, LADY! I HAVE TO MAKE SURE YOU DON'T FINGER ME!
J-JOHN... H--MMMM!
KLIK!

A GUN WOULD MAKE TOO MUCH NOISE. THIS GADGET OUGHT TO DO THE TRICK.
SACRED SERPENT SWORD OF SARAB!

DON'T WORRY, BOYS! NO ONE'S LAYING THIS JOB AT OUR DOORSTEP. I GOT A PERFECT ALIBI ALL SET UP FOR THE THREE OF US!

EARLY NEXT MORNING, JOHN KEYES MADE A GRISLY DISCOVERY...
MARIA!

REST WELL, MY DEAR. THE FOOLS USED THE SACRED SWORD. YOU WILL BE AVENGED.

SOME DAYS LATER, IN THE OFFICE OF THE POLICE LIEUTENANT REYNOLDS..
SORRY, KEYES. I HAVEN'T A THING ON YOUR WIFE'S KILLERS.
LIEUTENANT, YOU HAVE PHOTOGRAPHS OF ALL KNOWN CRIMINALS. I WANT TO LOOK AT THEM.

CAREFULLY, KEYES WENT THROUGH THE PHOTOS, HOLDING THE STRANGE SWORD ABOVE EACH...
RANCE COLLINS. HE WAS ONE OF THE KILLERS. THE LEGEND SAYS THAT THE SWORD BLEEDS OVER THE LIKENESS OF ONE WHO USED IT LAST!
IT--IT'S INCREDIBLE!

RANCE COLLINS. STEVE MADROGI. MAC WILKINS. THEY ARE MY WIFE'S MURDERERS.
YOU'D BETTER LEAVE POLICE WORK TO THE POLICE...AND NOT RELY ON BLACK MAGIC!... I'VE ALREADY QUESTIONED THEM, AND THEY HAVE PERFECT ALIBIS.

BESIDES, YOU'D HARDLY EXPECT ANY COURT TO TAKE SUCH NONSENSE AS EVIDENCE.
I TAKE IT SERIOUSLY...AND I'M SURE MY WIFE'S KILLERS WILL, TOO, BEFORE I'M THROUGH WITH THEM, GOOD DAY, LIEUTENANT!

SOME DAYS LATER...
HEY, RANCE...THEY'RE LIKE A TRINKET WE PICKED UP AT THE KEYES' HOUSE. THINK IT'S A TRAP?
MAYBE...BUT WE HAVE A PERFECT ALIBI...AND WE CAN ALWAYS SAY WE FOUND THIS ONE. LET'S GO.
RARE CONGO AMULETS WORTH FORTUNE TO OWNER FOR CONTACTS M. SPERETI 3 CLAYTON ST.

PRESENTLY...
YOU THE GENT THAT SAID ONE OF THESE WAS WORTH A FORTUNE!
YES...BUT I HOPE MY LITTLE AD WASN'T MISLEADING. THAT AMULET IS VALUABLE ONLY BECAUSE IT IS PART OF A CHARM THAT GUARDS RANU AGAINST EVIL SPIRITS....A NATIVE CONGO IDOL. HE WHO WEARS IT MAY STEAL RANU WITHOUT HARM!

...AND I AM OFFERING $200,000 IF YOU BRING RANU TO ME. I WILL PAY FOR YOUR PASSAGE, AND ARRANGE TO HAVE SUPPLIES AND INSTRUCTIONS READY WHEN YOU REACH AFRICA.

TWO HUNDRED GRAND FOR A WOODEN STATUE? YOU GOT YOURSELF THREE DELIVERY BOYS, MISTER!

HA-HA! I KNEW THEIR GREED WOULD TRAP THEM! THE AMULET WON'T PROTECT THEM AGAINST RANU! NOTHING WILL. REST EASILY, MARIA. YOUR MURDERERS ARE SPEEDING TO THEIR DOOM!

WEEKS LATER, DEEP IN THE SWAMPLAND BORDERING THE CONGO...
I'LL BE GLAD WHEN THIS TRIP IS OVER. I'D RATHER BE DEAD THAN LIVE IN A MUCK HOLE LIKE THIS!
QUIET, RANCE! I SEE RANU-- THROUGH THIS CLEARING!
ACCORDING TO THE INFO THAT GUY GAVE US, THE WITCH DOCTOR GUARDS RANU WITH HIS LIFE.
RANU...BWAMAY... ATTONAH...MY LIFE IS YOUR LIFE, RANU.
GOT HIM! FIRE OVER THEIR HEADS AND SCARE THEM AWAY!
BANG
SOME PEOPLE MIGHT CALL THIS BABY UGLY...BUT TO ME, HE'S THE PRETIEST THING I'VE EVER SEEN...200 GRAND WORTH OF PRETTY!
COME ON, STEVE. THE SOONER I GET OUT OF THIS PLACE, THE BETTER I LIKE IT.
I...I'M SCARED, RANCE. I GOT A LOOK AT ONE OF THOSE NATIVES AND HE WAS GRINNING. WH-WHY SHOULD HE SMILE?
MAYBE THEY DIDN'T LIKE THE WITCH DOCTOR AND ARE GLAD WE BUMPED HIM OFF.
RANU COME BACK.

HOURS LATER, AS THE DEEPENING JUNGLE SHADOWS CALL FORTH THE CRAWLING THINGS THAT DEAL IN SUDDEN DEATH...
HEY, FELLAS...WAIT FOR ME! THIS THING'S GETTING HEAVIER AND HEAVIER!
RANCE...COME BACK... IT...IT'S TANGLED IN A TREE!
WELL, UNTANGLE IT, AND COME ON. WE'LL WAIT HERE.

ALL RIGHT, I'LL... AAAAHHH...IT... IT'S.... HELP!
HE...HE GOT CAUGHT IN THEM HANDS! GET HIM DOWN... QUICK!
RANCE! HE... HE'S DEAD... STRANGLED...
WE GOTTA GET OUTTA HERE...BUT THERE'S SOMETHING ELSE WE HAVE TO DO FIRST!

WH-WHAT ARE YOU DOING, RANCE?
I'M GONNA ROAST THAT LITTLE WOODEN DEVIL TO ASHES! MAYBE I'M CRAZY BURNING TWO HUNDRED GRAND WORTH OF IDOL. BUT I WANT TO GET OUT OF THIS JUNGLE ALIVE!

ALL RIGHT...LET'S GET MOVING NOW... FAST!

A LITTLE LATER...
RANCE...DO YOU HEAR IT? SOMETHING CRASHING BEHIND US. DO YOU THINK IT'S...
IT...IT'S AN ANIMAL! IT...IT'S GOTTA BE!

RANCE! I...I CAN'T PULL THE TRIGGER! I'M SCARED!

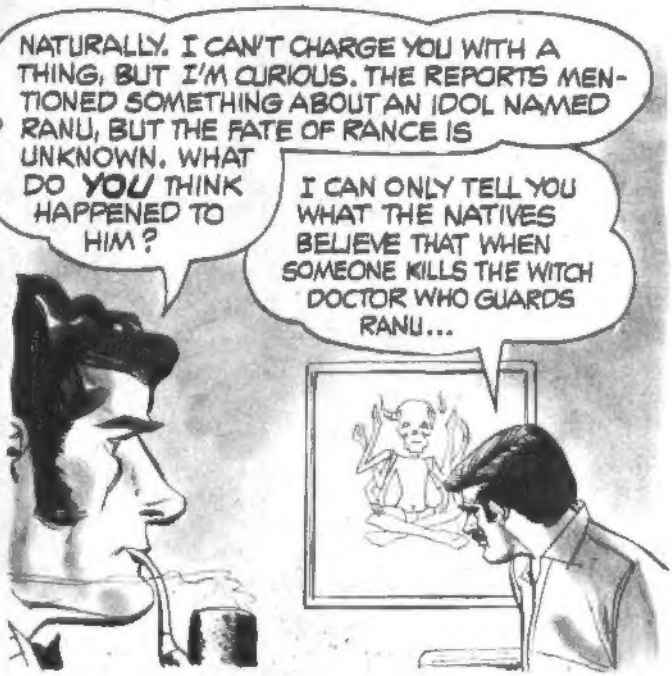
RANCE...HELP ME... HELP ME!!

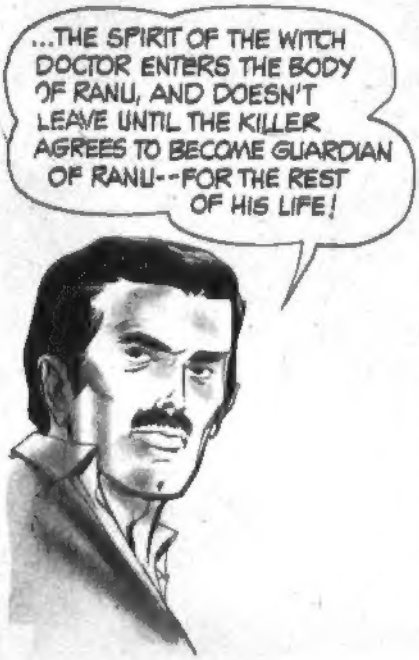
I...I.... ARRRGHH!

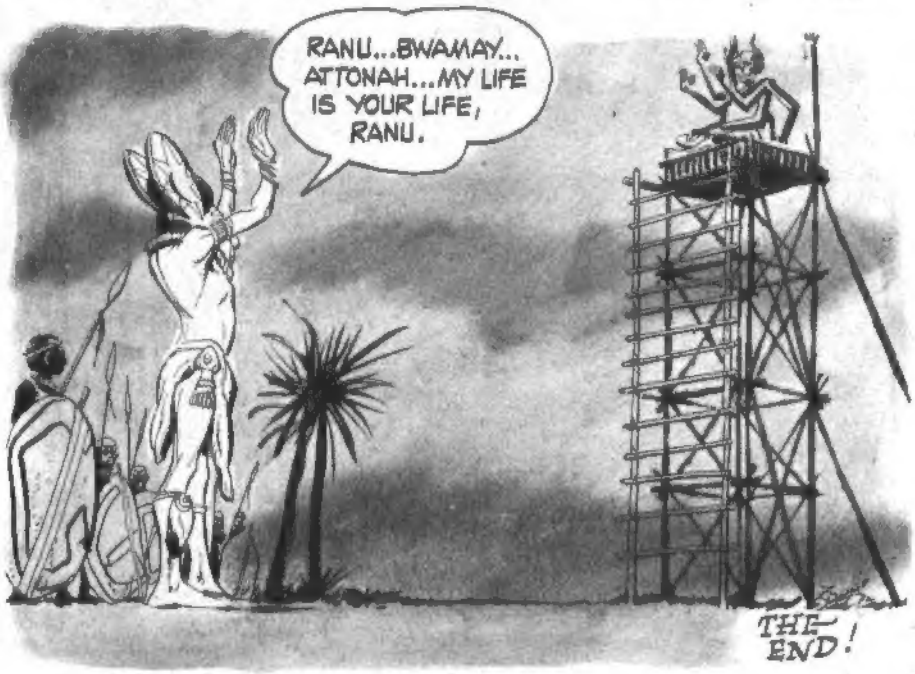
NO...NO...NO... DON'T KILL ME LIKE YOU DID THE OTHERS, ANYTHING...ONLY NOT THAT.

LEAD, RANU. I UNDERSTAND. I FOLLOW. WHEREEVER YOU GO, I WILL FOLLOW.

SOME WEEKS LATER, IN THE HOME OF JOHN KEYES...
I'VE JUST RECEIVED WORD THAT STEVE MADROGI AND MAC WILKINS HAVE BEEN FOUND IN THE JUNGLE... STRANGLED, MR. KEYES. YOU MADE A THREAT AWHILE BACK...
SO I DID. THE WAYS OF THE JUNGLE ARE STRANGE, LIEUTENANT...


NATURALLY. I CAN'T CHARGE YOU WITH A THING, BUT I'M CURIOUS. THE REPORTS MENTIONED SOMETHING ABOUT AN IDOL NAMED RANU, BUT THE FATE OF RANCE IS UNKNOWN. WHAT DO YOU THINK HAPPENED TO HIM?
I CAN ONLY TELL YOU WHAT THE NATIVES BELIEVE THAT WHEN SOMEONE KILLS THE WITCH DOCTOR WHO GUARDS RANU...


...THE SPIRIT OF THE WITCH DOCTOR ENTERS THE BODY OF RANU, AND DOESN'T LEAVE UNTIL THE KILLER AGREES TO BECOME GUARDIAN OF RANU--FOR THE REST OF HIS LIFE!


RANU...BWAMAY... ATTONAH...MY LIFE IS YOUR LIFE, RANU.
THE END!

SOME PEOPLE WHO VISIT GRAVES LEAVE FLOWERS.... BUT FOR THIS ONE. YOU NEED SOMETHING ALIVE! AFTER ALL, WE'RE NOT SURE ABOUT HIM! CARE TO STICK AROUND? HMMM?
Strange Facts
COUNT DRACULA
--THE LAST CORPSE TO ENTER A CEMETARY MUST GUARD THE OTHER GRAVES!... PSST.. THIS CEMETARY WAS ABANDONED IN 1800... HMMN?!
A SPIDER THAT DROPS ON YOUR FACE WILL BRING GOOD LUCK, —THIS MAN BELIEVED,—BUT, HE DIED KNOWN ONLY AS "HARD-LUCK" JOHN.